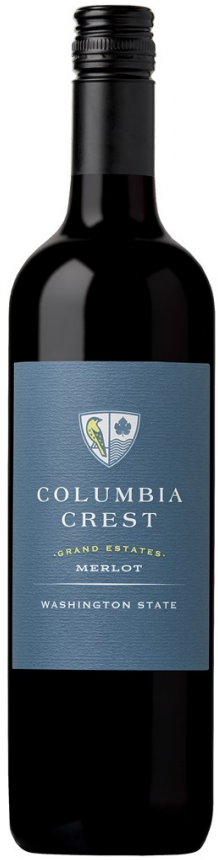


Columbia Crest

Grand Estates Merlot by Columbia Crest exemplifies the elegance and richness of Columbia Valley Merlot, wi
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Alcohol :14,80 %

Composition: 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

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th its luscious dark fruit flavors, velvety tannins, and smooth, lingering finish , making it a versatile choice for casion.

Grand Estates Merlot 2019

Washington, USA

Region and Vineyards

The **Columbia Valley**, home to this Merlot, is renowned for its dry, sunny climate and diverse soils, ideal for growing premium wine grapes. Protected by the **Cascade Mountains' rain shadow**, the region experiences minimal precipitation, which, combined with the warm summers and cool autumns, allows for optimal ripening and preservation of natural acidity.

Grapes for the **Grand Estates Merlot** were sourced from select vineyards across Columbia Valley, including the **Horse Heaven Hills** and **Wahluke Slope**. These premier sites benefit from sandy soils with low water-holding capacity and 100% drip irrigation, ensuring precise control of the vines and concentrated fruit flavors. The **growing season** saw cooler spring temperatures and delayed ripening, resulting in fresh aromatics, while the warm summer months enhanced concentration and depth in the fruit.

Winemaking

The **Grand Estates Merlot** blend consists of **90% Merlot** and **10% Cabernet Sauvignon**, a combination that adds structure and complexity to the wine. After crushing, the grapes underwent fermentation on the skins for **6 to 10 days**, promoting optimal color and flavor extraction.

Malolactic fermentation occurred in a combination of stainless steel tanks and oak barrels, followed by blending immediately after fermentation. The wine was then aged for approximately **14 months in a mix of French and American oak barrels**, both new and neutral, imparting subtle layers of chocolate and spice while maintaining its fruit-driven character.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby red with excellent clarity.
- **Aroma**: Inviting notes of **dark cherries**, **chocolate**, and a touch of oak.
- **Palate**: Rich and complex, showcasing flavors of **black cherry**, **plum**, and hints of cocoa, finishing with a smooth, velvety texture.

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Grand Estates Merlot 2019

Did You Know?

Columbia Crest is one of the most awarded wineries in Washington State, consistently recognized for its commitment to quality and innovation. Their **Grand Estates series** represents a dedication to crafting approachable, high-quality wines that reflect the unique character of Columbia Valley.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Blue cheese**: The wine's rich fruit and velvety tannins balance the sharp, creamy characteristics of the cheese.
- **Duck breast with cherry sauce**: Its dark cherry notes complement the savory and sweet profile of the dish.
- **Beef tenderloin**: The wine's structure and smooth finish enhance the flavors of a well-cooked steak.
- **Dark chocolate**: The cocoa notes in the wine pair harmoniously with the richness of dark chocolate desserts.